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Application of: Kajander et al

Art Unit:

Serial No. 09/923,932

Case Docket No. 7144

Filed: August 7, 2001

Examiner:

For: Method of Making Foam Coated Mat Online and Coated  
Mat Product

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NATIONAL, INC.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
10-31-01  
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Date

Dear Sir:

### Information Disclosure Statement

The following references are known to the Applicants and Applicants' attorney. These references involve methods of making products having a foam layer or methods of making nonwoven fibrous mats.

1. U. S. Pat. No. 4,169,915 - Heitmann et al - Issued 10/2/79

This reference is typical of prior art manufacture of a non-woven fiber mat faced foam laminate in which a foam or foam precursor is applied to a dry non-woven mat or a dry coated non-woven mat. This reference does not teach or reasonably suggests applying a layer of foam to a wet non-woven mat followed by drying the coated mat and foam layer.

2. U. S. Pat. No. 5,501,895 - Finley et al - Issued 3/26/96

This reference teaches making a vinyl flooring underlayment by foaming a polymer into a portion of the thickness of a dry, resin bonded, fibrous non-woven mat. Nothing in this reference teaches or reasonably suggests applying a layer of foam to a wet non-woven mat followed by drying the coated mat and foam layer.

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3. U. S. Pat. No. 5,514,417 - Matthews et al - Issued 5/7/96

This reference teaches coating, such as spray coating, dry work products such as non-woven fibrous pipe insulation to encapsulate dust and loose fibers in their exterior surfaces. Nothing in this reference teaches or reasonably suggests coating a wet non-woven fibrous mat on line with a foam coating followed by drying the wet mat and the foam coating together.

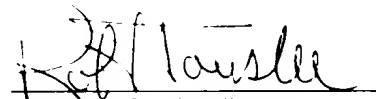
4. U. S. Pat. No. 5,578,363 - Finley et al - Issued 11/26/96

This reference is a continuation-in-part of U. S. Pat. No. 5,501,895 discussed above and does not teach or reasonably suggests applying a layer of foam to a wet nonwoven mat followed by drying the coated mat and foam layer.

5. U. S. Pat. No. 6,187,697 B 1 - Jaffee et al - Issued 2/13/2001

This reference teaches making a multi-layer nonwoven mat wherein fibers, particles or a mixture of the two is included in a binder for the mat and applied onto a wet nonwoven fibrous membrane wherein most of the particles and/or fibers remain on top of the wet fibrous membrane to form a distinct layer of the multi-layer mat. This reference does not teach or reasonably suggest applying a layer of foam to a wet nonwoven fibrous mat followed by drying the coated mat and foam layer.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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